

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A home entertainment system, comprising:

a hub having a plurality of TV tuners for each demodulating a video carrier signal that is modulated with a plurality of video channels, each TV tuner having an output that carries a baseband signal representing one of the video channels, and each TV tuner having an input for receiving control signals to change the channel;

a plurality of terminals that each includes a video monitor for displaying a video image and a controller for generating control signals;

a switching matrix that has multiple supply ports, each of a plurality of said supply ports connected to an output of one of said TV tuners, and having multiple consumer ports each connected to the video monitor and controller of a terminal.

2. The home entertainment system described in claim 1, wherein:
each of said TV tuners includes a stereo sound decoder.

3. The home entertainment system dec in claim 1 including:

a multiplicity of twisted wire pair cables, a plurality of said twisted wire pair cables extending between said TV tuners and said supply ports and a plurality of twisted wire pair cables extending between said consumer ports and said terminals.

4. The home entertainment system backbone described in claim 3, wherein:

each of said twisted wire pair cables that connects to a terminal includes four twisted wire pairs.

5. The home entertainment system described in claim 4, wherein:
one of twisted wire pairs is allocated to remote control signaling, one twisted wire pair is allocated to one channel of audio, one twisted wire pair is allocated to another channel of audio and one twisted wire pair is allocated to video data.

6. The home entertainment system described in claim 1 including:
a plurality of linking elements that carries signals;
said hub has an array of connectors, each connector in the array being connectable to a TV tuner by one of said linking elements and each connector being connectable to a selected one of the supply ports of the switching matrix by another linking element, whereby each TV tuner can be associated with a selected consumer port using the linking elements.

7. The home entertainment system described in claim 1 including:
at least one of video camera connected to one of said supply ports.

8. The home entertainment system described in claim 7, wherein:
said camera has a motion detector and generates an alarm signal when it detects motion;

5 said hub comprises means for detecting an alarm signal from the camera output, and wherein the switching matrix is controllable in response to the alarm signal to interrupt at least a portion of the output of a selected TV tuner and deliver camera signals in their place.

9. The home entertainment system described in claim 1, wherein:
said switching arrangement is constructed to selectively couple a first supply port at which audio is received from a consumer device to selected multiple

consumer ports, and including a plurality of loudspeakers connected to said
selected multiple consumer ports.

10. An entertainment center system that includes a plurality of TV tuner
video devices that each demodulate at least one high frequency carrier signal to
generate each of a plurality of corresponding baseband signals, a plurality of
generating video devices that each generates baseband signals, and a plurality of
video monitors that are isolated from one another, comprising:

a switching matrix that has a default setting wherein said switching matrix
connects each of a plurality of the baseband signals of said video devices to each
of a selected one of said video monitors;

a plurality of controls for use at each of said video monitors, which enables
a person viewing a particular video monitor to control the switching matrix to
connect the baseband signal of a different one of said video devices to said
particular video monitor;

at least one of said generating video devices is a video camera that
generates a view of an area, and said switching matrix is constructed to switch one
of its outputs that is delivered to one of said video monitors, to display the output
of one of said TV tuner devices or the output of said camera.

11. The system described in claim 1 including:

a motion detector that detects motion in the view of the video camera;

an alert device that generates an alert signal indicating motion largely in the
view of the video camera;

said switching matrix connects said alert signal to a selected one of said
video monitors to produce an alert at the video monitor.

12. The entertainment center described in claim 10 wherein:
said TV tuner video devices and said switching matrix are all located in the
same particular room of a home;
said video camera is located outside of said particular room.

13. The system described in claim 10 wherein:
each of said TV tuner video devices is operable to generate a baseband
video signal representing one of multiple video channels, and including a channel
changer associated with each TV tuner video device for generating a signal to
operate the TV tuner video device to demodulate another of said multiple video
channels when the corresponding monitor is connected to one of said TV tuner
video devices, said switching matrix including a plurality of controls each
responsive to one of said channel changer at a video monitor for operating a
corresponding TV tuner video device to change the video channel that is
generated.

14. The system described in claim 10 wherein:
said switching matrix has multiple signal inputs and multiple signal outputs
that are all baseband signals, and including multiple video signal cables that each
connects said switching matrix to one of said monitors and with only baseband
signals outputted from said switching matrix and carried by said video signal
cables of said monitors.